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 Authority State Letter 1/1/82
 By WSP NARA Date 7/24/98

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 818.00/1416 FOR #1462

FROM Costa Rica (Eberhardt) DATED May 26, 1933
 TO NAME 1-1127 o.p.

818.00B/54

REGARDING:

Recent communist activities in Costa Rica. Informs of disorders resulting from meeting of the unemployed which was held at the Communist Club, in which five policemen and four rioters were wounded. Decree authorizing the deportation of certain foreigners charged with Communistic activities. Activities of Miss Dora Zucker and Pagan Rodriguez.

las

818.00B

Monday, May 21st.
 It appears that early on that day a number of unemployed gathered in front of the Club; many women and children of the laboring classes were included

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San José, Costa Rica

No. 1462

May 26, 1933.

in the gathering. The Costa Rican authorities, knowing of the presence of the Communist Party and its members, two of whom were arrested, in the vicinity of the Communist headquarters to maintain order and to prevent a public manifestation of the unemployed

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the power that the disaffected workers could call on the Minister of the Interior and Municipal authorities in a body; in fact, they are reported to have had an appointment with the Minister for such a visit at about the very hour of the disorders; they had, however, failed to request the required permission to stage a demonstration or parade on the streets.

According to Colonel Jorge (Chano) Guardia, Chief of Police of the capital, the authorities expected a small number of police to be sufficient to maintain order without difficulty should a large

Sir:-

Supplementing my telegram No. 18 of May 22, 7 p.m. (1933), I have the honor to inform the Department on recent communist activities in Costa Rica.

Following a general lay-off of laborers employed by the Municipality of San José on public works projects, an announcement was published in the press inviting all the unemployed to meet at the Communist Club in San José on the afternoon of Monday, May 21st. It appears that early on that day a number of unemployed gathered in front of the Club; many women and children of the laboring classes were included

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in the gathering. The Costa Rican authorities, knowing that on May 23rd and another is not expected to survive. of the proposed meeting, sent an officer and four

during the attack, over forty of the alleged policemen, two of whom were mounted, to the vicinity of the Communist headquarters to maintain order and of the workers, some of whom are believed to have been to prevent a public manifestation of the unemployed on the streets of the capital. It had been stated in the press that the discontented workmen would call on the Minister of the Interior and Municipal authorities in a body; in fact, they are reported to have had an appointment with the Minister for such a visit at about the very hour of the disorders; they had, however, failed to request the required permission to stage a demonstration or parade on the streets.

According to Colonel Jorge (Chusco) González Ulloa, Chief of Police of the capital, the authorities expected a small number of police to be sufficient to maintain order without difficulty whereas a large number of authorities might incite the gathering.

The disorders which resulted in the serious wounding of five policemen and four known rioters, are said to have been begun by one Fallas, a Communist leader from Alajuela, who urged the gathering to pay no attention to the police and

to march to the office of the Minister of the Interior. The unemployed had been furnished with picks and shovels by Communist leaders and were able to put the handful of policemen out of commission before another contingent of police arrived on the scene. One of the injured policemen

died
recently

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died on May 23d and another is not expected to survive.

During the clash, over forty of the alleged Communists were captured by the police; however, all of the leaders, some of whom are believed to have been wounded, escaped. The principal Communist agitators, such as Manuel Mora V., Adolfo Braña, Rómulo Betancourt, and Guillermo Fernández, were not present at the meeting. Nor was Germán Lyra (Isabel Carvajal) at the scene of the riot. It is therefore presumed that most of the participants in the affray were not Communists but were unemployed laborers; the Communist leaders, true to form, had no direct or active part in the actual disorders and left the participants to suffer the consequences of the acts of violence to which they had been incited. They did, however, invite the unemployed to gather in the Communist Club. (Source: (Source) to

Immediately following the clash, prosecutions were taken to prevent other outbreaks in other parts of the city and warrants were issued for the arrest of a number of the well-known Communist agitators. (Source: (Source) at May 17, 1953) and was

A meeting of the Cabinet was held on the evening of the day of the rioting, which was followed by a decree authorizing the deportation of the following foreigners, charged with having been actively engaged in Communist propaganda: Rómulo Betancourt, a Venezuelan student attending the San José Law School; Adolfo Braña, a Spaniard,

recently

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recently elected Councilman of the San José Municipality; Carlos Herrera, a Nicaraguan; Juan José Palacios, a Venezuelan student in the San José Law School; and Francisco Blandón, a Nicaraguan.

Palacios was captured by the police immediately following the disorders, as were also the two Nicaraguans; Brana was arrested at Turrialba the following day while en route to San José from Port Limón where he had just accompanied Miss Dora Zucker, the American delegate to the Ibero-American Confederation of Students (vide despatch No. 1440 of May 18, 1933), on a propaganda tour of the Limón district. In this connection, there is transmitted 1/ herewith the copy of a letter addressed to me under date of May 24, 1933 by Vice Consul Crain, in which he reports that Miss Zucker apparently attempted to incite a meeting (evidently of Jamaican negroes) to stage a procession and demonstration before the American Consulate in Limón, as a protest against the recent developments in the Scottsboro case.

The Venezuelan student Betancourt (referred to in despatch No. 1443 of May 17, 1933) has not as yet been apprehended by the police.

Herrera and Blandón were deported to Nicaragua on May 24th by steamer; Brana and Palacios were deported to Panamá by airplane, and it is reported that the former sailed for Spain on the following day. Inasmuch as Palacios

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is said to be a political fugitive from Venezuela, orders have been given (at his request) to have him sent to Guatemala from Panama in order to avoid his being persecuted in his own country.

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The disorders of May 22nd are considered the direct result of recent Communist activities in Costa Rica which have been treated so lightly by the present administration. Besides, recent scandals in the Municipal and Federal Government (vide despatch No. 1402 of April 19, 1933) and the dismissal of many laborers because of alleged lack of funds are bound to increase dissatisfaction among the laboring classes affected.

While the deportation of the foreign element which has agitated in favor of Communism may rid the country of some dangerous individuals, there are still many of the same type, foreign and native, who will continue to carry on their work.

Among the foreigners may be mentioned the American Dora Zucker and the Puerto Rican José Pagan Rodriguez, both of whom are still in San José.

Miss Zucker, as stated on page 4 of this despatch, even worked among the numerous Jamaican negroes at Port Limón in an effort to induce them to demonstrate before the American Consulate there in protest against recent developments in the Scottsboro case. I am informed by Consul Myers

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Port Limon, Costa Rica, May 24, 1933.

that Pagan Rodriguez, pale and nervously excited, called on him shortly after the disorders of May 22nd, requesting that he be advised what procedure to follow to obtain permission to leave the country immediately. Mr. Myers presumes that the Puerto Rican was a participant in the unemployed demonstration and that he desired to leave the country in order to avoid trouble with the Costa Rican authorities.

This meeting, which was attended by approximately one hundred persons, was unusual in that it was addressed by Mr. Myers, Mr. Eberhardt, Mr. Pagan Rodriguez, and Miss Zucker. Pagan Rodriguez may therefore be said to be actively engaged in Communist propaganda in Costa Rica and to be indirectly responsible for unrest among the unemployed elements in this country.

Respectfully yours,

Respectfully yours,

(s) Earl T. Grain

CHARLES C. EBERHARDT

Earl T. Grain
American Vice Consul.

Enclosure:-

1. Copy of letter from Vice Consul Earl T. Grain, dated May 24, 1933.

800 - B.

A true copy
of the signed
original.
EZ/EZ.

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~~TO DESPATCH NO.~~

DATED May 26 1900

CONFIDENTIAL

Port Limon, Costa Rica. May 24, 1933.

CS:FS:

This meeting, which was attended by approximately one hundred persons, was unusual in that it was addressed by one Miss Zucher, or Zuchre, whom, it is understood, was an American delegate to the student Congress recently held in San José.

Although nothing came of it, and although the information obtained has not been verified, it is understood that Miss Zucker attempted to incite the meeting to stage a procession and demonstration before this office, basing the action as a protest against the recent developments in the Scottsboro Case.

Respectfully yours,

(s) Earl T. Crain

Earl T. Crain
American Vice Consul.

Transcript
of the original.
Bz.